

**From:** Soscia.Marylou@epamail.epa.gov  
**Sent time:** 07/27/2009 11:48:29 AM  
**To:** Gearheard.Mike@epamail.epa.gov  
**Cc:** Barber.Anthony@epamail.epa.gov; Cope.Ben@epamail.epa.gov; Croxton.David@epamail.epa.gov; palmer.john@epa.gov  
**Subject:** Re: High Water Temperatures in the Columbia River  
**Attachments:** pic15328.gif pic26846.gif pic25777.gif

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Mike:

Yes, this does validate the need for the TMDL - it also validates the need for EPA to look at the discrepancy between the OR and WA gas cap standards (120% vs. 115%) for these type of emergency situations. John and I have been talking to WA Ecology and others about this issue.

McNary is a particularly bad dam for high temps since you get the hot temps of the Snake River coming down the river. We have always identified McNary as the dam that should get some emergency mitigation for high temps in a future TMDL. We tried to get something in place in the late 90's when we saw really high temps but both the Corps and BPA balked objections.

They increase the spill to reduce high temperatures in the forebay, but they are also increasing transportation to get the fish out of the forebay area. A massive fish kill occurred here in 1996 where a bunch of Hanford Reach fall chinook got stuck at the forebay and died in hot water.

I am expecting that this week will be brutal for fish - we may see water temperatures as high as 80 degrees.

ml

▼ Mike Gearheard---07/27/2009 11:17:05 AM---Thank you for sharing this, ML. Makes all the more real our long-term concern about temperature in the Columbia-Snake system a

**Mike Gearheard/R10/USEPA/US**

07/27/2009 11:11 AM

To

Marylou Soscia/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

cc

Anthony Barber/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Ben Cope/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, David Croxton/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Marylou Soscia/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, palmer.john@epa.gov

Subject

Re: High Water Temperatures in the Columbia River 

Thank you for sharing this, ML. Makes all the more real our long-term concern about temperature in the Columbia-Snake system and the need for the TMDL. Am I to assume that when it gets hot like this, the FCRPS agencies find a way to spill (maybe from Grand Coulee) to cool the River? Hmmmmm.

Mike Gearheard  
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator  
phone: (206) 553-7151  
fax: (206) 553-1809  
email: gearheard.mike@epa.gov

▼ MaryLou Soscia---07/27/2009 10:28:11 AM---and here are some letters to the Judge on the high temperatures.....Mike - I did not copy you on the first email which was the

**MaryLou Soscia/R10/USEPA/US**

Sent by: Marylou Soscia

07/27/2009 10:33 AM

To

Anthony Barber/R10/USEPA/US, Ben Cope/R10/USEPA/US, palmer.john@epa.gov, David Croxton/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Mike Gearheard/R10/USEPA/US

cc

Subject

High Water Temperatures in the Columbia River

and here are some letters to the Judge on the high temperatures.....Mike - I did not copy you on the first email which was the reports showing the temps and mortalities....

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Mary Lou

----- Forwarded by Marylou Soscia/R10/USEPA/US on 07/27/2009 10:28 AM -----

"Ruff, Jim" <JRuff@NWCouncil.org>

To

Marylou Soscia/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

07/24/2009 01:43 PM

cc

Subject

FW: BiOp Lit - adjustments to McNary summer ops

Here we go again -- the average juvenile salmon mortality rate in the McNary Dam fish collection and holding (raceways) facilities this past week was nearly 9% due to high water temperatures, causing the Corps to alter planned operations and increase spill and bypass of fish. See attached memos to the court.

Jim

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**From:** Hirotsu, Sandra

**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2009 1:21 PM

**To:** Council Members; Division Directors; F&W State Staff; F&W Plus; Harrison, John

**Subject:** BiOp Lit - adjustments to McNary summer ops

Attached please find a 7/24/09 letter to Judge Redden notifying the court of emergency adjustments to summer operations at McNary due to elevated water temps and the Corps' 7/24/09 memo with the details.

<<7 24 09 letter on McNary high temps.pdf>> <<7 24 09 Corp memo on McNary.pdf>>

[attachment "7 24 09 letter on McNary high temps.pdf" deleted by Marylou Soscia/R10/USEPA/US] [attachment "7 24 09 Corp memo on McNary.pdf" deleted by Marylou Soscia/R10/USEPA/US]